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in F sharp minor, which is full of expression and sentiment. After the second subject is developed, the fitful changes in the harmony indicate the doubt and uncertainty of the lover's mind, and the gradual return to the first subject portrays confidence returning, while in its full repetition he yields again to that delicious dreaming which is youth's brief but sweetest privilege.

As we have said, Mr. Bassford has treated the subject in a highly imaginative manner, displaying fancy, grace and tenderness, together with musicianly feeling and judgment. It is one of his happiest productions, and must become a universal favorite in refined musical circles. It is dedicated to Mrs. Henry C. Watson, whose recitation of the elegant poem, with the music, produces an effect which is nothing short of fascination. It is a difficult feat to accomplish, for the inflections of the voice must be in perfect unison with the changing harmonies, and yet be free from sing-songiness. It must also be remembered that the Poem does not go bar for bar with the music, but has to be woven in with the sentiment, which is a task only to be accomplished by nice judgment and a refined musical sense. But perfectly intoned, the unison of the speaking voice with the piano delicately treated, produces the most dreamy, beautiful effects we ever listened to.

*Grand Polka de Concert*, composée par Homer N. Bartlett. Wm. A. Pond & Co.

This is one of the best efforts by an amateur that we have seen. It contains none of the false issues, the points of bathos which always characterize works of inexperienced writers. He has conceived melodious and elegant subjects, and has handled them with confidence and success. The passages are well made, and show good knowledge of piano technique. The first subject is fluent and graceful, the second bold and dashing, and both are well marked and characteristic. The changes of key are free and judicious, and afford good variety and contrast. It is in all respects a brilliant and effective piece both for the salon and the concert-room. It is dedicated to Miss Emma L. Cornell, of New York.

*La Grande Duchesse de Gerolstein*. Pot-pourri Fantasia, pour le piano. Par Charles Wels. Ditson & Co., Boston and New York.

This is the very lightest of light pieces, presenting some of the most popular subjects from Offenbach's most popular opera, joined together by the very slightest of connecting links, but forming a morceau for the piano which will meet with a rapid sale everywhere.

*Mon ami à mon Dieu, mon cœur à toi*. Song by Clapisson. Ditson & Co., Boston and New York.

This is a neat and clear edition of Clapisson's popular and beautiful song, "My soul to God, my heart to thee," which Mr. J. R. Thomas renders so effectively.

#### OLE BULL.

The approaching concerts of Ole Bull have already become the talk of the city. His extraordinary success out West, and the unqualified admiration expressed by the press of his great playing, are now exciting unbounded curiosity to hear him. His concerts are announced for the 18th, 20th, and 21st of this month, the last being a matinee.

In the meantime, as everything relating to this remarkable man is read with interest,

we call attention to an article which we publish to-day, containing some passages in his life while in this country, the romance of which will be found more strange than fiction.

#### THE PURIM BALL.

This brilliant Ball, which last year was so signal a success, will take place on Monday evening next at Pike's Opera House. Great preparations have been made to render it the crowning triumph of the season. Pike's Opera House will make the most magnificent ballroom, probably, in the world, and the Purim Society will inaugurate it in the Terpsichorean department. All the beauty, fashion and wealth of the city will be there, and we anticipate for the undertaking the most perfect success.

#### PHILHARMONIC CONCERT THIS EVENING.

The fourth concert of the Philharmonic Society takes place this Saturday at the Academy of Music. The Directors have secured the services of Madame Parepa Rosa, who will sing the magnificent Scena, "Ocean, thou mighty monster," from Weber's grand Opera, "Oberon, or the Magic Horn," and Mozart's beautiful Aria, "Deh vieni," from "La Nozze de Figaro." The orchestral selection is splendid, comprising Mozart's Symphony in G minor; Wagner's Introduction to Lohengrin, and Mendelssohn's surpassingly beautiful A major Symphony. This will be one of the finest concerts of the series, and should crowd the Academy from parquette to dome.

#### DUNHAM & SONS' NEW SCALE SQUARE.

These eminent manufacturers have just finished a new scale square pianoforte, which excels in all respects the instruments they previously made of the same class. For fifteen years this firm has maintained the same high standard of excellence, which was of course far in advance of that of the previous fifteen years. Their instruments have always been first-class.

Their new square is one of the most beautiful instruments we ever heard. In depth, purity and grandeur of tone it can hardly be equalled; its touch is exquisitely sensitive; the registers are perfectly equalized; it sings with a wonderful purity of vibration, and the quality of its sound is refined, limpid and melodious, and at the same time great in sonority and brilliance. It is truly a perfect piano.

The house of Dunham has always been among the intellectual leaders of piano improvers, and this new piano is another step in advance, which will still further enhance its reputation.

So strong is the necessity for worship and reverence in the human breast, that there is nobody so weak and mean as not to be made a hero of by somebody or other. All through society we may behold poor creatures without a single merit or point of worth, stuck on to lofty pedestals by creatures sometimes really poorer than themselves, who fancy they discern a superiority which is however purely imaginary.

A marriage has been announced between Monsieur Jacques Blumenthal, the well-known composer and pianist, and Miss Gore. The young lady is a Roman Catholic. The wedding is to take place at Bayonne.

#### BOOKS, MAGAZINES, &c.

Peterson, of Philadelphia, is now issuing cheap editions of the works of Sir Walter Scott and Charles Dickens. They are intended to be a People's Edition, and in order to place within the reach of every reader in this great reading country these great works, the price has been placed at twenty-five cents per volume—a price which every one can afford. We believe the works before us, "Ivanhoe" and the "Old Curiosity Shop," are the second numbers of the series; the first numbers did not reach us, nor any other books issued by this firm for the last ten months. The volumes comprise the entire of each work, three large volumes in one, and all for twenty-five cents. They are got out in as good a style as could be afforded for the money. It is a pity that works of a more useful and practical character are not brought out in this cheap form, so that the needy, craving after knowledge, might find it within the scope of their means.

The Atlantic Monthly, Ticknor & Fields, is out for the month of March, and is fully up to its general literary standard. There is a very pleasant article, entitled John Chinaman, M. D., illustrating the unbounded ignorance of the Chinese upon the subject of medicine, and containing many quaint and interesting facts. "George Silverman's Explanation," by Charles Dickens, "Flotsam and Jetsam," "By-Ways of Europe," and "Cretan Days" are continued, and the remaining articles are "Rockweeds," "John o' the Smithy," and "The Household Lamp," poems; "A Conversation on the Stage," "The Old Philadelphia Library," "The Sequel to an Old English Trial," "The Tenth of January," "Free Missouri," and "Some of the Wonders of Modern Surgery," a brilliant and most interesting paper, together with the accustomed Reviews and Literary Notices. It is an unusually excellent number.

Ticknor and Fields' Boys' and Girls' Magazine, "Our Young Folks," for March, is also out, and presents an attractive list of contents. "Round-the-World Joe" is as amusing as ever, and "Cast Away in the Cold" sustains its interest. Dickens' elegant and brilliant "Holiday Romance" is continued, and the full page illustration of it by Gilbert is worth the price of the magazine, independent of the reading matter. The other articles are "The Colored Mammy," "Inhospitability," "Molly Gair's New Dress," "Rover," "William Henry's Letters to his Grandfather," "Mischief," "Angel Children," "The French Exposition," "Mother's Kisses," Music, "Round the Evening Lamp," and "Our Letter Box." The illustrations are by D. C. Hitchcock, B. Day, S. Eytinge, Miss Lucy Gibbons, and G. G. White.

Great things are promised for the April number, both in the literary and artistic way.

Mdl'e. Anna Reiss, whose successful career we noticed a short time since at Berlin, Leipzig, and Darmstadt, has appeared as Margareta in M. Gounod's *Faust*, at Manheim, with decided success. She was recalled after each act, and has repeated the character since with increased effect. All the authorities, civil and military, of the town attended. The young artist's father is the burgomaster of Manheim.